



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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SNP Memo #11-12-05

TO: Directors, Supervisors, and Contact Persons Addressed

FROM: Catherine Digilio Grimes, MS, RD, LDN, SNS *Digilio Grimes*
Director, School Nutrition Programs *Catherine*

DATE: February 2, 2012

SUBJECT: New 2012 Nutrition Standards for School Meals Information and Training

On January 26, 2012 the long awaited U.S. Department of Agriculture's final rule for defining the new nutrition standards and meal pattern requirements for School Nutrition Programs was release. We recognize the urgency of providing the guidance, technical assistance and training as soon as possible. The school nutrition staff members are reviewing the regulations. We will continue to provide guidance and directions through memos, meetings, and training sessions as appropriate.

The first of a many training sessions for School Nutrition Directors will be conducted via Webinar.

Title: "New 2012 Nutrition Standards for the School Meals (New Meal Pattern 101)"

Date: Friday, February 10, 2012

Time: 2 to 3:30 p.m.

The details of how to access the Webinar will be sent out by e-mail to all SNP directors.

Overall, the new regulations require all schools participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs to serve more fruits, vegetables, and whole grains while limiting sodium and calories.

A couple of key points:

1. Implementation time line for lunch is effective SY 2012-2013 and breakfast effective SY 2013-2014 (with a few exceptions)
2. Only one menu planning option - Food Based Menu Planning
3. Fruit and vegetable components are now two separate groups and there are specific categories of vegetables require (i.e., dark green vegetables, orange vegetables, legumes).
4. Sodium targets are phased

The attached documents will assist you in a basic understanding of the changes and will begin to answer some main questions and concerns. Attachment A is a comparison of meal components and nutrient requirements of the current regulations and the new requirements. Attachment B is questions and answers just released by USDA.

Please join the Webinar for more details. If you have any questions, please contact the school nutrition specialist assigned to your division or the School Nutrition Programs Office at (804) 225-2074.

CDG/idl
Attachments